GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3464
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
REBATE TO SENIOR CITIZENS .
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, is granting 25 per cent Rebate to Senior Citizens;

(b) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., is not granting such rebate to its subscribers who are also Senior Citizens;

(c) whether both the M.T.N.L. and the B.S.N.L. are the ventures of the Central Government, serving the people;

(d) whether any representation has been received by the Government to grant its subscribers, who fall in the category of Senior Citizens the said rebate @ 25 per cent, and remove the anomaly/injustice;

(e) if so, whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government; and

(f) if so, the time by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi and Mumbai are provding rebate in its plan 250 scheme only in respect of landline connections to the Senior Citizens. The rebate include 25% on rent and 25% on installation charges.

(b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, is not granting such rebate to the Senior Citizens.

(c) Yes, Sir. The M.T.N.L and the B.S.N.L. both are the ventures (PSUs) of the Central Government.

(d) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received urging for grant of concessions to Sr. Citizens in BSNL.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration, for the following reasons as:-

(i) BSNL is an independent entity working in stiff competitive environment with other private Operators

(ii) BSNL has `Sulabh Plan` for basic telephony where rental is substantially lower than MTNL varying from Rs.99/- to Rs.160/- per month depending on exchange system capacity. This can be availed by Senior Citizens.

(iii) Even in general tariff plans of BSNL in basic telephony, the rental varies from Rs.50/- per month to Rs.180/- per month for exchange systems capacity upto 1 lakh lines.

(iv) The bonafide use of concessional telephone can not be restricted to Senior Citizens only in the family.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.